

a few suggestions as to the affinities of the orders of Mammalia indicated by the structure of the placenta. We clearly, of course, have to start with forms which could not be grouped with any of the existing orders, but which might be called the Protoplacentalia. They probably had the primitive type of placenta described above: the nearest living representatives of the group are the Rodentia, Insectivora, and Chiroptera. Before, however, these three groups had become distinctly differentiated, there must have branched off from the primitive stock the ancestors of the Lemuridæ, the Ungulata, and the Edentata.

It is obvious on general anatomical grounds that the Monkeys and Man are to be derived from a primitive Lemurian type; and with this conclusion the form of the placenta completely tallies. The primitive Edentata and Ungulata had no doubt a diffused placenta which was probably not very different from that of the primitive Lemurs; but how far these groups arose quite independently from the primitive stock, or whether they may have had a nearer common ancestor, cannot be decided from the structure of the placenta. The Carnivora were certainly an offshoot from the primitive placental type which was quite independent of the three groups just mentioned; but the character of the placenta of the Carnivora does not indicate at what stage in the evolution of the placental Mammalia a primitive type of Carnivora was first differentiated.

No important light is thrown by the placenta on the affinities of the Proboscidea, the Cetacea, or the Sirenia; but the character of the placenta in the latter group favours the view of their being related to the Ungulata.

2. On some Birds collected by Mr. E. F. im Thurn in British Guiana. By P. L. SCLATER, M.A., Ph.D., F.R.S., Secretary to the Society.

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Mr. Everard F. im Thurn having placed in my hands for determination a series of bird-skins collected by himself or under his supervision in British Guiana in 1878 and 1879, I have had great pleasure in putting names to these specimens. Amongst the 160 species, examples of which are in the collection, are some which require a few remarks for their better identification. These are:—

1. *VIREOLANIUS LEUCOTIS* (Sw.).

Vireolanius leucotis, Salvin, Ibis, 1878, p. 443, pl. xi.

One example, obtained in June 1879 on the Mazaruni river by H. Pauli, a collector employed by Mr. im Thurn.

The acquisition of this specimen is very satisfactory, as it enables

me to say that the supposed Guianan *V. chlorogaster* (cf. Salvin, *l. s. c.*) is inseparable from *V. leucotis*, and that this species therefore ranges from Cayenne and the Rio Negro to the Huallaga. Mr. im Thurn's specimen is inseparable from skins obtained by Mr. Buckley at Sarayacu, Ecuador.

2. CYANICTERUS VENUSTUS, Bp.

Orthogonys cyanicterus, Scl. P. Z. S. 1856, p. 122.

Cyanicterus venustus, Bp. Consp. i. p. 240 (1850).

Callithraupis cyanicterus, Berl. orn. Centralbl. 1879, p. 63.

A single female example of this Tanager, obtained on the Mazaruni river by the same collector.

Mr. im Thurn gives me the following note on this species:—"Two examples of this bird were brought to me at the same time by Pauli; but one of them, which was evidently a male, was afterwards completely destroyed by ants. When giving them to me, Pauli, who has collected diligently in Guiana for upwards of forty years, told me that he had only once before met with one of these birds, and that was on the same river."

3. ORCHESTICUS ATER.

Orchesticus ater, Scl. P. Z. S. 1856, p. 67.

Tanagra olivina, Scl. P. Z. S. 1864, p. 607, et 1873, p. 186, pl. xxi. (jun.).

Graf von Berlepsch has convinced me of the fact, which I could at first hardly believe, that my *Tanagra olivina* (ex Natt. MS.) is merely the young bird of *Orchesticus ater*. A skin obtained by Mr. im Thurn on the Corentyn river in November 1879 well serves to confirm this excellent identification. The general plumage is green, as in *Tanagra olivina*, so-called; but the black colour is beginning to show on the lores, throat, and upper wing-coverts.

4. AGELÆUS IMTHURNI, sp. nov.

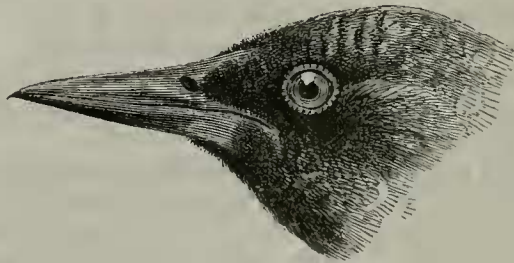
Thilius major, Bp. Compt. Rend. xxxvii. p. 833 (1853)?

Nigerrimus unicolor, fasciculo plumarum axillari flavo; rostro et pedibus nigris: long. tota 10·4, alæ 5·0, caudæ rotundatæ rectr. med. 4·8, ext. 3·8, rostri 1·2, tarsi 1·2.

Hab. Guiana Brit. int. (*im Thurn*).

Mr. im Thurn's series contains a single example of this fine and well-marked Icterine bird, which is quite new to me. It was obtained by Mr. im Thurn himself at the Kaieteur Waterfall on the Potaro river in November 1878. Though the generic divisions of the Icteridæ are a little puzzling, I am disposed to place this along with the true *Agelæi*, as arranged in the 'Nomenclator,' next to *A. thilius*, of Chili, from which it may be at once distinguished by its much larger size, by the yellow colour being confined to the tuft of axillary plumes, and by both upper and under wing-coverts being black.

Bonaparte's *Thilius major* may have been possibly founded upon an example of this species; but the description is too short to be certain; and, as I have been kindly informed by M. Alph. Du Bois, the type specimen (stated to be in the Brussels Museum) cannot be found. I have therefore named this interesting addition to the Guianan avifauna after its discoverer, who has supplied me with the subjoined note on it.



Bill of *Agelæus imthurni*.

“ A considerable flock of these birds, numbering about 40, was always to be found during the three days I remained in the neighbourhood, in the trees on the edge of the forest round the open plateau from which the Kaieteur falls. They attracted considerable attention by their incessant chattering, their note being like, but far less shrill than, that of *Cassicus persicus*. These cries were kept up throughout the day, and were almost the only bird-notes to be heard about noon. The Indians of my own party, who were not from that district, had never seen the birds before; but some Ackawor Indians who lived in that neighbourhood declared that they knew them well: this, as Indians are very careful observers of birds, shows almost conclusively that the species is local in Guiana. Between us we secured three specimens.”

5. *OCHTHÆCA MURINA*, Scl.

Ochthæca murina, Scl. P. Z. S. 1871, p. 749.

An example from the Corentyn river, obtained in July 1879.

I am glad to have the habitat of this species confirmed, as it is by Mr. im Thurn's specimen, and by others collected in the same district, I believe, by Mr. C. Barrington Brown, one of which is in my collection.

6. *HETEROPELMA IGNICEPS*, Scl.

Heteropelma igniceps, Scl. P. Z. S. 1871, p. 750.

Three skins of this species were obtained by Mr. im Thurn on the Corentyn river (1879) and one on the Essequibo. The two former quite agree with my typical specimen; the latter has a rather paler crest, and is probably a female.

Mr. im Thurn tells me that this bird is common enough throughout the colony, not only near the coast, but also in the interior; on the Rupumini savannas, bordering on the Brazil, he has seen many examples.